

Unit Two: Video Introduction to Theology

Secular Humanism

- Theology = **atheism**
- Assumptions
 1. There is no **God**
 2. The universe **created** itself.
- The ultimate source of truth and knowledge is **humans**
- Science and the scientific process have rendered the **idea** of God obsolete.
- "Humanism contends that instead of the gods creating the cosmos, the cosmos, in the form of human beings giving reign to their **imagination**, created the gods." ~ Corliss Lamont
- "We can discover no divine **purpose** or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will **become**. **No deity will save us, we must save ourselves.**" ~ Paul Kurtz in *Humanist Manifesto II*

Marxism-Leninism (Communism)

- Theology = **atheism**
- "It is as clear as the sun and evident as the day that there is no God; and still more, that there **can** be no God." ~ Karl Marx
- "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the sentiment of a **heartless** world. It is the opium of the people." ~ Karl Marx
- "The philosophical basis of Marxism is absolutely atheistic and positively **hostile** to all religion. Every religious idea, every idea of God, even flirting with the idea of God, is unutterable vileness." ~ Vladimir Lenin

Cosmic Humanism (New Age Movement)

- Theology = **pantheism**
 - God is **everything** and **everything** is God
 - From the Greek **pan** = **all**, and **theos** = **god**
- Humans should seek **God**-consciousness—get in touch with the cosmic energy force that is divine.
- "You each need to become **masters** of your own souls, which is to say, the realization of yourselves as **God**." ~ Shirley MacLaine
- "We are not potential Gods; we are God...but have not attained to that level of consciousness (or **self-awareness** to recognize that we are God."
- "God, it turns out, isn't a person; God is a **process**. I see no difference between myself and God. When I pray, I find that I am praying to **myself**." ~ Deepak Chopra

Christianity

- Theology = **theism**

- The opening verse of Genesis clearly confirms not only the **existence** of God but also establishes him as the foundation for all **meaning**.
- God is **personal** and **loving**.
- The three most important evidences for God's existence
 1. **Cosmological** argument—everything that has a beginning has a beginner
 2. **Teleological** argument—everything that is designed has a designer
 3. **Moral** argument—every moral law has a moral lawgiver; every absolute moral law has an absolute moral law giver